AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A customisable data filter system adapted to reduce a dimension of a searchable data base and to perform one or more of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to a correspondingly reduced search space, said system comprising:

     a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) comprising a programmable smartcard adapted to store at least a data filter parameter, and further adapted to provide a user interface by means of spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard;

     a reader means adapted to interface with said PCFI, and further adapted to discriminate an icon on an inserted said smartcard selected by a user; and

     database processing means adapted to interface with the reader means, said database processing means being (a) responsive to said data filter parameter stored in said PCFI and detected icon selection and (b) adapted to establish the correspondingly reduced search space dependent upon said filter parameter, and wherein said one or more of the database search and the data item selection is performed using the selectable icons.

2.   (Previously Presented) A customised data filter system according to claim 1, wherein said data filter parameter comprises a base filter parameter, and wherein the PCFI is adapted to store another filter parameter which is combinable with said base filter parameter to thereby enable further reduction of the dimension of the searchable data base.

3.   (Original) A customisable data filter system according to claim 1, wherein said data filter parameter is a reference to said data filter parameter.

4.   (Previously Presented) A method of customising a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) adapted to reduce a database search space, using a Portable Customisable User Interface (PCUI), wherein the PCFI and the PCUI respectively comprise a programmable smartcard providing a user interface including spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard, wherein the user selectable icons are operable using a smartcard reader to which the smartcard is connected; said method comprising steps of:

interfacing a customising system to the PCFI and the PCUI using respective said smartcard readers; and

programming the PCFI by means of user instructions being input to the customising system using the user interface of the PCUI.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method of customising a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) comprising a programmable smartcard providing a user interface including spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard, wherein the user selectable icons are operable using a smartcard reader to which the smartcard is connected, the PCFI being adapted to reduce a database search space; the method comprising the steps of:

interfacing a customising system to the PCFI using said smartcard reader;

and

programming the PCFI by means of user instructions being input to the customising system using predetermined said icons on the PCFI.

6.   (Currently Amended) A Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) adapted to reduce a database search space, said PCFI comprising:

a programmable smartcard providing a user interface including at least one icon made visible on a surface of the smartcard, wherein the icon is operable using a smartcard reader to which the smartcard is connected;

a first data filter parameter adapted to define the reduced said search space; and

a first rule adapted to define a second data filter parameter dependent upon the first data filter parameter.

7.   (Previously Presented) A PCFI according to claim 6, wherein the first data filter parameter is a reference to the first data filter parameter.

8.   (Previously Presented) A PCFI according to claim 6, wherein said first rule comprises at least one of:

a boolean relationship applicable to said first data filter parameter; and

a learning function operable upon the first data filter parameter in conjunction with a baseline parameter.

9.   (Previously Presented) A PCFI according to claim 8, wherein the first data filter parameter comprises first and second data filter parameters.

10.   (Original) A method of reducing a dimension of a searchable data base, and performing at least one of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to a correspondingly reduced search space, said method comprising steps of:

configuring a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) comprising a programmable smartcard adapted to store at least a data filter parameter, and further adapted to provide a user interface by means of spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard;

interconnecting the PCFI to a searchable database;

selecting one or more of said user selectable icons;

defining the reduced search space dependent upon said filter parameter; and

performing at least one of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to said reduced search space, dependent upon said selection.

11.   (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said defining step comprises sub-steps of:

reading the filter parameter, being a base filter parameter, from the PCFI; and

applying the base filter parameter to the searchable database thereby to define the reduced search space; and wherein the step of performing one or more of a

database search and a data item selection is followed, if further search space reduction is desired, by further steps of:

reading another filter parameter from the PCFI;

combining said other filter parameter with said base filter parameter; and

applying the combined filter parameters to the reduced search[[,]] space thereby to define a further reduced search space.

12.   (Original) A method of reducing a dimension of a searchable database according to claim 10, whereby said data filter parameter is a reference to said data filter parameter.

13.   (Original) A computer readable medium for storing a program for apparatus which reduces a dimension of a searchable data base and performs one or more of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to a correspondingly reduced search space, said program comprising:

code for a configuring step for configuring a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) comprising a programmable smartcard adapted to store at least a data filter parameter, and further adapted to provide a user interface by means of spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard;

code for an interconnecting step for interconnecting the PCFI to a searchable database;

code for a selection step responsive to selection of one or more of said user

selectable icons;

code for a defining step for defining the reduced search space dependent

upon said filter parameter; and

code for a database searching step and code for a data item selection step for

performing at least one of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to said

reduced search space, dependent upon said selection.

14.   (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 13,

wherein said data filter parameter is a reference to said data filter parameter.

15.   (Previously Presented) A Portable Customisable data Filter and

Interface (PCFI) adapted to reduce a database search space, the PCFI comprising:

a programmable smartcard that is operable using a smartcard reader to

which the smartcard is connected; and

a base data filter parameter stored in a memory of the smartcard

wherein when the PCFI is coupled to a database using the reader the search

space of the database is reduced to a reduced search space according to the base data filter

parameter.

16.   (Previously Presented) A PCFI according to claim 15, further

comprising:

a user interface including an icon made visible on a surface of the

smartcard, wherein the icon is operable using the smartcard reader; and

a second data filter parameter associated with the icon and stored in the

memory,

wherein selection of the icon associated with the second data filter

parameter causes the reduced search space established by the base data filter parameter to

be further reduced in accordance with to the second data filter parameter.

17.   (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein said programmable

smartcard of said PCUI stores a data filter, and

said programming step programs said programmable smartcard of said PCFI

on the basis of the data filter.

18.   (New) A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps

of:

displaying customisation interface display on a screen of the customising

system on the basis of data filter stored in the PCFI; and

modifying the customisation interface display by the user selection,

wherein when the predetermined icon displayed in the customisation

interface display is instructed by the user, said programming step is performed.

19.   (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the customisation

interface display includes map information, and

the database search space is reduced on the basis of the map information.